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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
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BELANI, KISHIN G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/26/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/709,512	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MANNARU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kishin G. Belani	<b>Art Unit</b> 2109	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/12/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement submitted on 08/12/2004 has been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application file.

### ***Specification***

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

**Claims 37-44** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 37-44 claim a computer program product in a computer readable medium where the specification specifically mentions examples of computer readable medium that include optical, electromagnetic, infrared, and the Internet transmissions (paragraph 0038, lines 16-22), which do not fall under statutory subject matter.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claim 1** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Horn clearly shows and discloses a method for conferencing (Abstract that discloses music-on-hold associated with audio conference calls; Figs. 1 and 2; column 2, lines 5-25 which describe a method for handling an offending conferee), comprising:  
monitoring a status of participants in a conference (column 2, lines 36-42 that disclose a music detector monitoring the audio signals from each conferee and detecting the presence of music-on-hold signals); and  
transmitting a re-invite signal to any participant that is disconnected from the conference in response to the participant being reconnectable (column 2, lines 5-25 that disclose how an offending conferee is temporarily disconnected for the duration for which the music-on-hold is playing. When the offending conferee stops playing music-on-hold

and becomes eligible to be reconnected, the conferee is re-invited to join the conference again).

**Claims 20, 23, 28, 29, 31, and 36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)**.

Consider **claim 20**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose a system for conferencing (Abstract which disclose a VTE Server that along with a Call Server, provides a system for the collaboration services including conferencing; paragraph 0065, lines 1-3 that disclose a system for implementing the collaboration services suite 2), comprising: at least one server (Fig. 2 that shows a Call Server, a VTE Server, and a Presence Server; paragraph 0065, lines 3-6 that describe the servers); and a conferencing function operable on the at least one server to monitor a status of participants in a conference (Fig. 2; paragraph 0066, lines 6-11 that disclose a Presence Server 42, adapted to detect team member presence by receiving Status Update messages and recording the status of participants in a status table 43).

Consider **claim 23**, and **as applied to claim 20 above**, Liversidge shows and discloses the claimed invention including a system comprising a disconnected participant list to store an identification associated with each participant that is disconnected from the conference (Fig. 9; paragraph 0084, lines 1-15 that disclose how the request of an invitee who wishes to exit the conference is processed, including the

step of updating the status table 43 to indicate the user is no longer a participant in the conference, and therefore disclosing a list for disconnected participants).

Consider **claim 28**, and **as applied to claim 20 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose a system with means for transmitting a re-invite signal to any disconnected participant in response to the disconnected participant being able to rejoin the conference (Fig. 25, blocks 446, 454, and 448 that disclose how an invitee may join the conference later if the invitee was disconnected after selecting joining now path via blocks 442 and 448; paragraph 0133, lines 7-16 and 21-27 that disclose instantiation of a multi-media object 406 for both initialization of a new media session and for joining an active multi-media session that is already in progress and disclosure of a video conferencing session; paragraphs 0137, lines 1-8 and paragraph 0139, lines 1-5, which together disclose the process of joining the conference at the beginning or at a later time).

Consider **claim 29**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose a method for making a system for conferencing (Abstract which disclose a VTE Server that along with a Call Server, provides a system for the collaboration services including conferencing; paragraph 0065, lines 1-3 that disclose a system for implementing the collaboration services suite 2), comprising:

providing at least one server (Fig. 2; paragraph 0065, lines 3-6 that show a Call Server, a VTE Server, and a Presence Server; paragraph 0065, lines 3-6 that describe the servers); and

providing a conference function operable on the at least one server to monitor a status of participants in a conference (Fig. 2; paragraph 0066, lines 6-11 that disclose a Presence Server 42, adapted to detect team member presence by receiving Status Update messages and recording the status of participants in a status table 43).

Consider **claim 31**, and **as applied to claim 29 above**, Liversidge shows and discloses the claimed invention including a method for forming a disconnected participant list to store an identification associated with each participant that is disconnected from the conference (Fig. 9; paragraph 0084, lines 1-15 that disclose how the request of an invitee who wishes to exit the conference is processed, including the step of updating the status table 43 to indicate the user is no longer a participant in the conference, and therefore disclosing a list for disconnected participants).

Consider **claim 36**, and **as applied to claim 29 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose the claimed invention including a method for providing means for transmitting a re-invite signal to any disconnected participant being able to rejoin the conference (Fig. 25, blocks 446, 454, and 448 that disclose how an invitee may join the conference later if the invitee was disconnected after selecting joining now path via blocks 442 and 448; paragraph 0133, lines 7-16 and 21-27 that disclose instantiation of

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a multi-media object 406 for both initialization of a new media session and for joining an active multi-media session that is already in progress and disclosure of a video conferencing session; paragraphs 0137, lines 1-8 and paragraph 0139, lines 1-5, which together disclose the process of joining the conference at the beginning or at a later time).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation



under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**Claims 2, 3, 9-11, and 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)**.

Consider **claim 2**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except transmitting the re-invite signal to any participant that exits the conference in response to the participant transmitting a request to rejoin the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose transmitting the re-invite signal to any participant that exits the conference in response to the participant transmitting a request to rejoin the conference (Fig. 25, blocks 446, 454, and 448 that disclose how an invitee may join the conference later if the invitee was disconnected after selecting joining now path via blocks 442 and 448; paragraph 0133, lines 7-16 and 21-27 that disclose instantiation of a multi-media object 406 for both initialization of a new media session and for joining an active multi-media session that is already in progress and disclosure of a video conferencing session; paragraphs 0137, lines 1-8

and paragraph 0139, lines 1-5, which together disclose the process of joining the conference at the beginning or at a later time).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the re-invite signal to any participant that exits the conference in response to the participant transmitting a request to rejoin the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that a conferee who is unintentionally disconnected from the conference, is able to join and participate in the conference.

Consider **claim 3**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except adding a participant to a disconnected participant list for each participant that is disconnected from a conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose adding a participant to a disconnected participant list for each participant that is disconnected from a conference (Fig. 9; paragraph 0084, lines 1-15 that disclose how the request of an invitee who wishes to exit the conference is processed, including the step of updating the status table 43 to indicate the user is no longer a participant in the conference, and therefore disclosing a list for disconnected participants).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a participant to a disconnected participant list for each participant that is disconnected from a conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that the system can track the active participants from the

disconnected participants, in order to be able to re-invite the disconnected participants to participate in the conference if they were unintentionally disconnected.

Consider **claim 9**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except adding each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose adding each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference (Fig. 2, Presence Server block 42 and Status Table block 43; paragraph 0066, lines 6-18 that disclose a Presence Server 42 adapted to detect team member presence by receiving Status Update messages and recording the status of participants in it).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that the system can track the active participants from the disconnected participants, in order to be able to re-invite the disconnected participants to participate in the conference if they are inadvertently disconnected.

Consider **claim 10**, and **as applied to claim 9 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except removing any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose removing any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference (paragraph 0108, lines 14-21 that disclose a Presence Client 110 detecting the status of the respective communication devices and forwarding applicable status messages to the Presence Server 42 at regular intervals. If the status messages are not received from the Presence Client 110 for a pre-determined period of time by the Presence Server 42, the Presence Server declares an unavailable status for the participant at that client device, thereby disclosing removal of a participant from the participant list when the participant exits the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that the system can track the active participants from the exiting participants, in order to be able to keep track of when to end the conference and release the resources allocated for the conference.

Consider **claim 11**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except presenting examples of different conference types such as at least one of Web-based conferencing, videoconferencing, audio conferencing, teleconferencing, instant messaging and Internet Relay Chat.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose several examples of different conference types such as at least one of Web-based conferencing,

videoconferencing, audio conferencing, teleconferencing, instant messaging and Internet Relay Chat (paragraph 0006, lines 2-6 that disclose teleconference, the Internet (Web-based) conference, Instant Messaging conference; paragraph 0010, lines 3-6 that list text chat, streaming video, and VoIP conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide many different conference types, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that the conference participants can select any desired conference type based on the availability of common equipment at different participants' sites.

Consider **claim 22**, and **as applied to claim 20 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except a participant list to store an identification of each participant in the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose a participant list to store an identification of each participant in the conference (Fig. 2, Presence Server block 42 and Status Table block 43; paragraph 0066, lines 6-18 that disclose a Presence Server 42 adapted to detect team member presence by receiving Status Update messages and recording the status of participants in it).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a participant list to store an identification of each participant in the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, so that the system can track the active participants from the disconnected participants,

in order to be able to re-invite the disconnected participants to participate in the conference if they were unintentionally disconnected.

**Claim 4** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)**, and further in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**.

Consider **claim 4**, and **as applied to claim 3 above**, Horn as modified by Liversidge et al., shows and discloses the claimed invention except recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list; and discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Horn as modified by Liversidge et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently

disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

**Claims 5 and 6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Mayer (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0042103 A1)**.

Consider **claim 5**, and **as applied to claim 1 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except replaying a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Mayer discloses replaying a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference (Fig. 3; paragraph 0026, lines 5-24 that disclose how a user who missed a portion of a video-conference or e-learning session, can request to replay a copy of it from the start of the program or an event (such as a disconnected participant rejoining the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replay a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference, as taught by Mayer in the method of Horn, so that the disconnected participant has an opportunity to view the part of the missed conference, and retain the continuity of the contents after rejoining the conference.

Consider **claim 6**, and **as applied to claim 5 above**, Horn shows and discloses the claimed invention except presenting an interface to control replaying the recording of the conference by the rejoining participant.

In the same field of endeavor, Mayer discloses an interface to control replaying the recording of the conference by the rejoining participant (paragraph 0026, lines 27-41 that disclose how a user can either specify how many minutes ago to start the replay or to jump back a number of steps until the user finds the start of replay, or automatically go back to the start of the event).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present an interface to control replaying the recording of the conference by the rejoining participant, as taught by Mayer in the method of Horn, so that the disconnected participant has an opportunity to quickly select the parts of the missed conference to view, and then rejoin the conference in progress.

**Claims 7 and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Mayer (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0042103 A1)**, and further in view of **Herr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)**.

Consider **claim 7**, and **as applied to claim 5 above**, Horn, as modified by Mayer, shows and discloses the claimed invention except a method for removing the



rejoining participant from a disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Herr et al. clearly show and disclose a method for removing the rejoining participant from a disconnected participant list (Fig. 22, blocks 2210 and 2211; column 19, lines 9-13 which disclose that by dialing the digit 3, the processor 101 deletes the telephone number of the disconnected conferee from the dropped list and reconnects the conferee to the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove a conferee from the disconnected list of conferees when that conferee is reconnected to the conference, as taught by Herr et al. in the method of Horn, as modified by Mayer, so that the disconnected participant list truly represents the remaining disconnected conferees.

Consider **claim 8**, and **as applied to claim 5 above**, Horn, as modified by Mayer, shows and discloses the claimed invention except a method for determining the disconnect or exit time for each rejoining participant from a timestamp associated with each rejoining participant.

In the same field of endeavor, Herr et al. clearly show and disclose a method for determining the disconnect or exit time for each rejoining participant from a timestamp associated with each rejoining participant (Fig. 21, blocks 2107-2109; column 18, lines 7-12 which disclose that each "dropped list" entry contains the time when the conferee

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was disconnected, thereby making it possible to determine the disconnect or exit time for each reconnecting participant).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine the disconnect or exit time for each rejoining participant from a timestamp associated with each rejoining participant, as taught by Herr et al. in the method of Horn, as modified by Mayer, so that the disconnected participant can replay the recording of the conference for the portion of time he or she was disconnected from the conference.

**Claims 12-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Herr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**.

Consider **claim 12**, Herr et al. show and disclose a method for conferencing (Abstract; Figs 2-4; column 8, lines 49-51 that disclose an audio bridge multiport digital conference system) comprising:

monitoring a status of each participant in a conference (column 17, lines 20-24 which disclose that supervision of the various conference legs is monitored by the toll switching system 102);

adding a participant to a disconnected participant list in response to the participant being disconnected (column 17, lines 38-41 that disclose a conferee being inadvertently

disconnected or dropped from the conference; column 17, lines 66-68 that disclose a list of dropped participants being maintained by the processor 101).

However, Herr et al. fails to disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Herr et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 13**, and **as applied to claim 12 above**, Herr et al. show and disclose the claimed invention, including a method for monitoring the disconnected participant list (Fig. 21, block 2100; column 17, lines 20-27 which disclose that switching system 102 monitors the participants' trunks for a disconnect);

However, Herr et al. fail to disclose continuing to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list and

discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Herr et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as applied to claim 12 above**, Herr et al. disclose the claimed invention, including a method for adding an identification and a timestamp to the disconnected participant list for each participant that is involuntarily disconnected or exits the conference and indicates an intent to return (column 18, lines 7-8 which disclose that an entry in the "dropped list" also contains the time when a participant was inadvertently dropped or exited the conference).

**Claims 15-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Herr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Schoof II (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,440,624)**.

Consider **claim 15**, and **as applied to claim 12 above**, Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al. show and disclose the claimed invention except a method for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Schoof II discloses a method for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference (column 9, lines 39-44, column 10, lines 45-53 that disclose a participant changing from an "active" status to a "hold" mode, then returning back to the "active" status later and playing back the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replay a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Herr et al., as modified by Burritt et al., so that a conferee who is

inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 16**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and further modified by Schoof II, disclose the claimed invention except presenting an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording.

Nonetheless, Schoof II further discloses a method for presenting an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording (column 10, lines 45-68 which disclose different speeds at which the rejoining participant may be allowed to replay the recording, or replay only certain portions of the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Herr et al., as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to quickly review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed and catch up with the conference proceedings currently in progress.

Consider **claim 17**, and **as applied to claim 15 above**, Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, show and disclose the claimed invention including removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference or the disconnected participant

skipping replaying the recording (Fig. 22, blocks 2210 and 2211; column 19, lines 9-13 which disclose that after the originator dials the digit 3 to reconnect the disconnected conferee, the processor 101 deletes the telephone number of the disconnected conferee from the dropped list and reconnects the conferee to the conference).

Consider **claim 18, and as applied to claim 15 above**, Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, show and disclose the claimed invention for determining the disconnect time for each rejoining participant from a timestamp associated with each rejoining participant (column 17, lines 66-68 which disclose that an entry in the "dropped list" contains the identity of station that has disconnected from the conference, thereby providing the identity of the rejoining participant; column 18, lines 7-8 which disclose that an entry in the "dropped list" also contains the time when a participant was inadvertently dropped or exited the conference, thereby providing data to determine the disconnect time for each rejoining participant).

**Claim 19** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Herr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)** and further in view of **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)**.

Consider **claim 19, and as applied to claim 12 above**, Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al. shows and discloses the claimed invention except a method for transmitting

a re-invite signal to any participant on the disconnected participant list in response to the participant being able to rejoin the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. disclose transmitting a re-invite signal to any participant on the disconnected participant list in response to the participant being able to rejoin the conference (Fig. 25, blocks 446, 454, and 448 that disclose how an invitee may join the conference later if the invitee was disconnected after selecting joining now path via blocks 442 and 448; paragraph 0133, lines 7-16 and 21-27 that disclose instantiation of a multi-media object 406 for both initialization of a new media session and for joining an active multi-media session that is already in progress and disclosure of a video conferencing session; paragraphs 0137, lines 1-8 and paragraph 0139, lines 1-5, which together disclose the process of joining the conference at the beginning or at a later time).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transmit the re-invite signal to any participant that exits the conference in response to the participant transmitting a request to rejoin the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Herr et al. as modified by Burritt et al., so that a conferee who is unintentionally disconnected from the conference, is able to join and participate in the conference.

**Claim 21** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)** in view of **Mayer (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0042103 A1)**.



Consider **claim 21**, and **as applied to claim 20 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose the system for conferencing, except means to record the conference in response to at least one participant being disconnected from the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Mayer discloses the means to record the conference in response to at least one participant being disconnected from the conference (paragraph 0026, lines 1-24 that disclose proxies 32 for saving streaming data in circular buffers. If a participant in a videoconference or an e-learning session misses the start of the session (representing a participant being disconnected from the conference), the retroactive conference contents can be replayed).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide means to record the conference in response to at least one participant being disconnected from the conference, as taught by Mayer in the method of Liversidge et al., so that the disconnected participant has an opportunity to view the missed parts of the conference, and then rejoin the conference in progress.

**Claims 24, 30 and 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**.

Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 23 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose the system for conferencing, including the system comprising means for monitoring the disconnected participant list (Fig. 9; paragraph 0084, lines 1-15 that disclose how the request of an invitee who wishes to exit the conference is processed, including the step of updating the status table 43 to indicate the user is no longer a participant in the conference, and therefore disclosing a list of disconnected participants).

However, Liversidge et al. fail to disclose a system comprising means for continuing to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list; and means for discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose a system comprising means for continuing to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list; and means for discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the system of Liversidge et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from

the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 30**, and **as applied to claim 29 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose the claimed invention except the method for providing means to record the conference in response to at least one participant being disconnected from the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose a method for providing means to record the conference in response to at least one participant being disconnected from the conference (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Liversidge et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 32**, and **as applied to claim 31 above**, Liversidge et al. show and disclose the method for conferencing, including the method providing means for monitoring the disconnected participant list (Fig. 9; paragraph 0084, lines 1-15 that

disclose how the request of an invitee who wishes to exit the conference is processed, including the step of updating the status table 43 to indicate the user is no longer a participant in the conference, and therefore disclosing a list of disconnected participants being monitored).

However, Liversidge et al. fail to disclose a method providing means for continuing to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list; and means for discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. disclose a method providing means for continuing to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list; and means for discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty (paragraph 0029; lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Liversidge et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

**Claims 25, 26, 33, and 34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Schoof II (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,440,624)**.

Consider **claim 25**, and **as applied to claim 24 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. show and disclose the claimed invention except a system with means for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect or exit time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Schoof II discloses a system with means for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect or exit time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference (column 9, lines 39-44, column 10, lines 45-53 that disclose a participant changing from an "active" status to a "hold" mode, then returning back to the "active" status later and playing back the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replay a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al., so that a conferee who is

inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 26**, and **as applied to claim 25 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and further modified by Schoof II, disclose the claimed invention except an interface presentable to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording.

Nonetheless, Schoof II further discloses an interface presentable to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording (column 10, lines 45-68 which disclose different speeds at which the rejoining participant may be allowed to replay the recording, or replay only certain portions of the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording, as taught by Schoof II in the system of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to quickly review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed and catch up with the conference proceedings currently in progress.

Consider **claim 33**, and **as applied to claim 32 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. show and disclose the claimed invention except the method for providing means for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a

present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Schoof II discloses a method with means for replaying a recording of the conference from a disconnect or exit time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference (column 9, lines 39-44, column 10, lines 45-53 that disclose a participant changing from an "active" status to a "hold" mode, then returning back to the "active" status later and playing back the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replay a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 34**, and **as applied to claim 33 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and further modified by Schoof II, disclose the claimed invention except providing means for forming an interface presentable to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording.

Nonetheless, Schoof II further discloses providing means for forming an interface presentable to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording (column 10,

lines 45-68 which disclose different speeds at which the rejoining participant may be allowed to replay the recording, or replay only certain portions of the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to quickly review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed and catch up with the conference proceedings currently in progress.

**Claims 27, 35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Schoof II (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,440,624)**, and further in view of **Herr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)**.

Consider **claim 27**, and **as applied to claim 25 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, show and disclose the claimed invention except a system with means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Herr et al. show and disclose a system with means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference (Fig. 22, blocks 2210 and



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2211; column 19, lines 9-13 which disclose that after the originator dials the digit 3 to reconnect the disconnected conferee, the processor 101 deletes the telephone number of the disconnected conferee from the dropped list and reconnects the conferee to the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a system with means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference, as taught by Herr et al. in the system of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who was inadvertently disconnected from the conference, and then after reviewing the contents of the missed portion of the conference, is now able to participate in the proceeding of the conference in progress.

Consider **claim 35**, and **as applied to claim 33 above**, Liversidge et al. as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, show and disclose the claimed invention except a method providing means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Herr et al. show and disclose a method providing means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference (Fig. 22, blocks 2210 and 2211; column 19, lines 9-13 which show and disclose that after the originator dials the digit 3 to reconnect the disconnected conferee, the processor 101 deletes the

telephone number of the disconnected conferee from the dropped list and reconnects the conferee to the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a method with means for removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference, as taught by Herr et al. in the system of Liversidge et al., as modified by Burritt et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who was inadvertently disconnected from the conference, and then after reviewing the contents of the missed portion of the conference, is now able to participate in the proceeding of the conference in progress.

**Claim 37** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**.

Consider **claim 37**, Horn discloses the claimed invention of monitoring a status of participants in a conference and transmitting a re-invite signal to any participant that is disconnected from the conference in response to the participant being able to rejoin the conference except providing a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for his method.

In the same field of endeavor, Burritt et al. clearly disclose providing a computer-readable medium containing instructions (paragraph 0017, lines 5-8 and claim 33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a computer-readable medium containing instructions, as taught by Burritt et al. in the system of Horn, so that the software code that executes the methods of the claimed invention is permanently stored on a medium from which it can be read by a computer.

**Claims 38 and 39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Herr et al (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)**.

Consider **claim 38**, and **as applied to claim 37 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al. disclose the claimed invention including providing a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for his method, except adding a participant to a disconnected participant list for each participant that is disconnected from the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Herr et al. clearly disclose adding a participant to a disconnected participant list for each participant that is disconnected from the conference (column 17, lines 38-41 that disclose a conferee being inadvertently disconnected or dropped from the conference; column 17, lines 66-68 that disclose a list of dropped participants being maintained by the processor 101).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a participant to a disconnected participant list

for each participant that is disconnected from the conference, as taught by Herr et al. in the method of Horn, as modified by Burritt et al., so that an attempt can be made to reconnect the participant who was inadvertently disconnected from the conference.

Consider **claim 39, and as applied to claim 38 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al., disclose the claimed invention including monitoring the disconnected participant list.

However, Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al., fail to disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list and discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty.

Nonetheless, Burritt et al. disclose recording the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list and discontinuing to record the conference in response to the disconnected participant list being empty (paragraph 0029, lines 14-17 that disclose recording the conference in response to a participant being dropped inadvertently from the conference, in order to deliver the recorded conference portion to the dropped conferee).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to record the conference in response to at least one participant being in the disconnected participant list, as taught by Burritt et al. in the method of Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al., so that a

conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

**Claims 40-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Herr et al (U.S. Patent Publication # 4,540,850)**, and further in view of **Schoof II (U.S. Patent Publication # 5,440,624)**.

Consider **claim 40**, and **as applied to claim 39 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al., disclose the claimed invention except replaying a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Schoof II disclose replaying a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference (column 9, lines 39-44, column 10, lines 45-53 that disclose a participant changing from an "active" status to a "hold" mode, then returning back to the "active" status later and playing back the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replay a recording of the conference from a disconnect time to a present time for each participant in the disconnected participant list in response to a rejoining participant rejoining the conference, as taught by Schoof II in

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the method of Horn, as modified by Burritt et al. and Herr et al., so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed.

Consider **claim 41**, and **as applied to claim 40 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al. and Schoof II, disclose the claimed invention except presenting an interface to control replaying the recording of the conference by a rejoining participant.

Nonetheless, Schoof II discloses replaying a recording of the conference in response to a disconnected participant rejoining the conference (column 10, lines 45-68 which disclose different speeds at which the rejoining participant may be allowed to replay the recording, or replay only certain portions of the recording).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present an interface to the rejoining participant to control replaying the recording, as taught by Schoof II in the method of Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al. and Schoof II, so that a conferee who is inadvertently disconnected from the conference, is able to quickly review the contents of the portion of the conference that he or she missed and catch up with the conference proceedings currently in progress.

Consider **claim 42**, and **as applied to claim 40 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al. and Schoof II, disclose the claimed

invention except removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference.

Nonetheless, Herr et al. disclose removing the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference (Fig. 22, blocks 2210 and 2211; column 19, lines 9-13 which disclose that after the originator dials the digit 3 to reconnect the disconnected conferee, the processor 101 deletes the telephone number of the disconnected conferee from the dropped list and reconnects the conferee to the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove the rejoining participant from the disconnected participant list in response to completion of replaying the recording of the conference, as taught by Herr et al. in the method of Horn as modified by Burritt et al., and further modified by Herr et al. and Schoof II, so that the disconnected participant list truly represents the remaining disconnected conferees.

**Claims 43 and 44** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Horn (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,556,670 B1)** in view of **Burritt et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0235509 A1)**, and further in view of **Liversidge et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/0076025 A1)**.

Consider **claim 43**, and **as applied to claim 37 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al. disclose the claimed invention including providing a computer-readable

medium having computer-executable instructions for his method, except adding each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. clearly disclose adding each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference (Fig. 2, Presence Server block 42 and Status Table block 6; paragraph 0066, lines 6-18 that disclose a Presence Server 42 adapted to detect team member presence by receiving Status Update messages and recording the status of participants in it).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add each participant to a participant list in response to each participant joining the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, as modified by Burritt et al., so that the system can track the active participants from the disconnected participants, in order to be able to re-invite the disconnected participants to participate in the conference if they are inadvertently disconnected.

Consider **claim 44**, and **as applied to claim 43 above**, Horn as modified by Burritt et al. disclose the claimed invention including providing a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for his method, except removing any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference without an indication of returning.

In the same field of endeavor, Liversidge et al. clearly disclose removing any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference without an indication of returning (paragraph 0108, lines 14-21 that disclose a Presence



Client 110 detecting the status of the respective communication devices and forwarding applicable status messages to the Presence Server 42 at regular intervals. If the status messages are not received from the Presence Client 110 for a pre-determined period of time by the Presence Server 42, the Presence Server declares an unavailable status for the participant at that client device, thereby disclosing removal of a participant from the participant list when the participant exits the conference).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove any participant from the participant list in response to the participant exiting the conference, as taught by Liversidge et al. in the method of Horn, as modified by Burritt et al., so that the system can track the active participants from the exiting participants, in order to be able to keep track of when to end the conference and release the resources allocated for the conference.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US Patent Application Publication: 2005/0233736 A1, inventor: Berstis et al.,

Published: 10/20/2005, Assignee: IBM

US Patent: 7,085,558 B2, inventor: Berstis et al, issued: 08/01/2006

US Patent Application Publication: 2004/0203677 A1, inventor: Brown et al.,

Published: 10/14/2004, Assignee: IBM

US Patent: 7,003,286 B2, inventor: Brown et al, issued 02/21/2006

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401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rafael Perez Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 270-1767 or (571) 272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

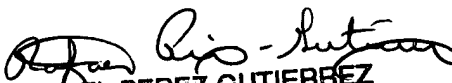
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

*Kishin G. Belani*  
K.G.B./kgb

January 25, 2007

  
RAFAEL PEREZ-GUTIERREZ  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
2/12/02